

REMARKS

*Interview
Record
OK
7/26/05*

This application has been carefully considered in light of the Final Official Action on the merits of April 15, 2005 and a telephone interview with the Examiner on July 14, 2005. The applicant again thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of granting the interview after the Final Official Action. This application contains claims 1 to 23, claims 1, 5, 6, 9 are amended and claim 4 is cancelled in this amendment.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-12, 14-17 and 20-23 previously on file under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ward et al., '844 in view of United States Patent No. 4,462,497 (Maule).

The teachings of United States Patent No. 4,178,844 are of interest. The cooking grid taught in this reference is of interest in that it teaches a two-way adjustable cooking grid, which is adjustable for both length and width. The purpose of the cooking grid disclosed by Ward et al., is to provide an adjustable grid which is capable of supporting food articles of varying size and shape in a roasting pan off the bottom of the pan (col 2 lines 44-54). Although the roasting pan is often inserted into a cooking device, such as an oven, in order to cook the food, it is clear from the teachings of the description that Ward et al., never intended to use their cooking grid as a divided oven rack. Moreover, as the Examiner states on page 5 of the Action, Ward et al., do not disclose of the grids being connected by mutually engaged rods to form a joint wherein the ends of one set of rods is inserted into the ends of the other set of rods, so that a channel passes through each of the ends and is held in-line with a pin passing therethrough.

The Applicant acknowledges that the prior art discloses various forms of grid and display stand formulations, wherein the rods of the grids are connected to each other in different ways. United States Patent No. 4,462,497 to Maule, for example, discloses a display stand comprising a generally upright elongated support with generally horizontally disposed supporting members secured in interlocking relationship. The teachings of Maule, while being of interest, by no means solve the problem successfully achieved by the